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Moreover, it is the most readable book on economics that the reviewer has had the good fortune to peruse. Were he to recommend a text-book for a student who could not have the advantages of class-room discussion, Professor Fetter's book would be his first choice.

A. S. JOHNSON.

Columbia University.

The Declaration of Independence, an Interpretation and an Analysis. By HERBERT FRIEDENWALD. Pp. 299. Price, \$2.00. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1904.

The Independence campaign has never been so carefully studied as in this valuable monograph, which is a fitting product of the author's long-continued and scholarly researches. In the chapter entitled "The Popular Uprising," the organization of the revolutionary forces is outlined and some very interesting facts noted. Of the twelve colonies sending delegates to the first Congress, but five acted through their assemblies, and three of these were in complete control of the revolutionists. All the rest had a revolutionary organization outside of the assembly. Committees, conventions and irregular bodies acted for the rebellious factions. When non-importation and non-exportation was resolved upon, the continental organization became necessary, and the Congress became the natural advance from the committee organization. In "The Congress Finding Itself" the author shows how the Congress grew from an impotent body with vague powers to one having practically complete control of the affairs of a people engaged in a war. He unfolds the phenomena of a politically organized body, deriving all its sanction from local political organs, and dependent on their good-will for existence—limited in its authority only by the reason and good sense of its constituents—gradually leading the colonies to new governmental organization and final independence. One constantly wishes that Mr. Friedenwald would say definitely what his story so conclusively proves—that the Revolution was the work of an active and vigorous minority, which first got control of Congress and then reached out until it drew with it the reluctant people. Instead, the author only hints at this in his thesis that the Congress relied on and fostered the democratic elements from which, in a large measure, it derived its power. Congress not only took heed not to get far ahead of the people, but kept a guiding hand upon the course of events. The conservative party tried to keep "the people" from getting control, for among "the multitude were to be found the radicals who before had enjoyed little share in political affairs." The various methods by which Congress coerced the conservatives are clearly shown, but we cannot agree with the interpretation put upon the acts of Congress suppressing the Loyalists, inviting foreign intervention and founding a navy. These were not necessarily "sovereign" acts, if we consider how and in what spirit they were done. However, there is room for a difference of opinion. A phrase quoted by the author—"the supreme superintending power"—better describes Congress than the word "sovereign." "The Idea of Independence takes Root and the Congress Prevails" is a very valuable chapter upon the work of

Congress in getting the independence idea before the people. Paine's "Common Sense" is represented as inspired by members of Congress, conceived with deliberation, and made to appear at the "psychological moment" calculated to make it a success. From that point on the gradual growth of the power of Congress is clearly drawn, but the character of the power is never defined. Though the author states that the enforcement of Congress' resolutions was left to assemblies, conventions and committees of safety, yet he seems not to see how this fact affects the interpretation of Congress' position in the American political system.

In the chapter entitled "The Congress and the Democracy," the methods used by the radicals to free themselves from the conservatives fortified behind the old franchise limitations are admirably sketched. How Congress took advantage of the actions of British government, and how it used the growing Continental army to strengthen the revolutionary organization, and how it perfected the system of revolutionary conventions and committees is a fascinating political study. We cannot see how Mr. Friedenwald justified the statement (p. 92) that Ellery, of Rhode Island, came to Congress with new instructions "permitting them (Rhode Island delegates) to vote for independence if joined by others." The delegates themselves were disappointed in not receiving definite instructions as to independence (see Staples, R. I. in the Cont. Cong.). Again, the statement (p. 96) as to Gwinnett and Hall's instructions needs modification to give the exact spirit of the instructions. The following chapter, "Independence in the Making," portrays in a scholarly way the last stages of the fight. Two slips should be noted: There is nothing in Delaware's instructions that warrants the statement (p. 110) that she swung "into line for independence on June 14th," and Governor Franklin was not "ordered" (p. 112), but *recommended* to be sent into Connecticut.

The succeeding chapters tell of the adopting and signing of the Declaration, criticise its critics, discuss its purpose and very ably explain its philosophy. The last two chapters consist of an examination of the historical accuracy of the charges made in the Declaration against the British king. These chapters represent an immense amount of careful research in the materials relating to the early stages of the Revolution. The book as a whole represents an amount of study that gives great credit to the author's conscientious scholarship. It will be greeted with real enthusiasm by all students of this ever-interesting theme.

C. H. VAN TYNE.

University of Michigan.

The American Colonies in the Seventeenth Century. By HERBERT L. OSGOOD. 2 vols. Pp. 1068. Price, \$5.00. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1904.

Probably most students of American colonial history have been at times oppressed by the volume of material which they owe to the antiquarian zeal and local patriotism of individuals and public authorities in the older states of the Union. There is now available a great quantity of source-material,